

## Seabirds Count: Urban Nesting Gull Surveys

### Seabirds Count: Britain and Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> Breeding Seabird Census

Since 1969 there have been periodic censuses of breeding seabirds in Britain and Ireland. The last census was completed in 2002; due to the time that has passed, it is important another survey takes place. Seabirds Count was developed by the Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) partnership and is being coordinated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). Its goal is to gather vital data on the breeding numbers of seabirds, with the aim of understanding how distributions and populations have changed. Survey work started in 2015 and had aimed to be completed by the end of the 2020 breeding season. However, Covid-19 caused the survey period to be extended until 2021.

As part of the Seabirds Count census, volunteers across the whole of the UK will be participating in surveys of urban nesting gulls during late April to late-May. These urban surveys will play a vital role in understanding how the UK population of both Herring and Lesser Black-backed gulls are faring. Herring gull numbers in natural breeding sites such as cliffs, rocky coasts and moorland declined by a third between 1986 and 2015. By conducting surveys of urban nesting gulls, we can understand whether these declines at natural sites are a product of these birds moving into urban areas, or if the declines are more widespread.

Volunteers are needed to survey a 1km square – a list of the squares available is attached below. The method simply involves visiting the site once and counting nests/gulls that can be seen from the ground.

If you would like to help with the urban nesting gull survey in Sussex, please contact Alison Giacomelli with your name and the area that you would be willing to survey. Many thanks.

#### **Contact:**

**Alison Giacomelli**  
**Seabirds Count Sussex Coordinator**  
**[Alison.giacomelli@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Alison.giacomelli@naturalengland.org.uk)**



## West Sussex

County	Grid Ref	Site name
East Sussex	TQ6100	Eastbourne
East Sussex	TQ6302	Langney, Eastbourne
East Sussex	TQ5802	Willingdon
East Sussex	TQ5805	Polegate
East Sussex	TQ9119	Rye - New Winchelsea Rd
East Sussex	TQ9418	Rye Harbour
East Sussex	TQ9220	Rye
East Sussex	TQ9221	Rye - North
East Sussex	TQ5705	Polegate - W
East Sussex	TQ7307	Bexhill
East Sussex	TQ7309	Bexhill
East Sussex	TQ8413	W of Guestling Green
East Sussex	TQ8112	Hastings - St Helens Wood
East Sussex	TQ7913	N Hastings
East Sussex	TQ7711	W of Hollington, Hastings
East Sussex	TQ8013	Hastings - Baldslow
East Sussex	TQ7908	St Leonards